

Principal's Message for December 2016

In reflecting on the season I have become more keenly aware that we, at Saratoga Shores, have a good deal to be thankful for - most particularly, great teachers, parents, and students that make up this fabulous school community. I am continually impressed at the level of commitment from all interested parties to the success of students at this school. There certainly is a culture of service and support that emanates throughout all we do here at Saratoga Shores. This is why it only seems natural for this message to focus on our wonderful service opportunities this holiday season, as well as our fun Saratoga Shores Shark traditions both past and present.

In working closely with our student council, under the direction of Ms. G & Mrs. Willis we held our annual Penny Wars fundraiser. **In one week, we raised over \$1700 to help families in our community with Christmas!** THANK YOU to all those who participated in Penny Wars!

In keeping with this month's focus on service, and in lieu of Dr. T's Readers Book Club, I will visit every grade level to read holiday stories as part of what I call Dr. T's Holiday Read. I look forward to sharing this time with your students. In January we will resume Dr. T's Readers with the following books: **Grades 1-2 *Gooney Bird Greene* By Lois Lowry; Grades 3-4 *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* By Lenore Look; Grades 5-6 *Night of the Twisters* By Ivy Ruckman.** My monthly reminder is, as always, please keep encouraging your students to read not only the Dr. T books, but any good book they can get their hands on – particularly during the holiday season.

Finally, I wish to send a thank you out to the following: our wonderful school choirs who will be performing for us this month; all our choir teachers (Mrs. Saxton, Mrs. Done, Miss Schmidt, and Mr. Goodman) and parents involved in making this program shine; our fabulous fifth grade team for putting on our annual Thanksgiving experience; all our teachers for the many fun learning activities that occur everyday throughout the school; and our wonderful secretarial and support staff!

Truly our students are fortunate to enjoy such wonderful learning opportunities, as we all join together to "Building a Community of Learners – One Student At a Time."

Please enjoy a wonderful holiday season! - Dr. Thomas